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1. A method of operating a probe device in a broadband wireless system, the method comprising:

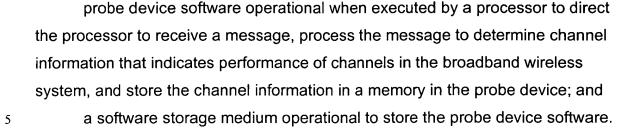
receiving a message;

processing the message to determine channel information that indicates performance of channels in the broadband wireless system; and storing the channel information in a memory in the probe device.

- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the channels are upstream.
- 10 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the channels are downstream.
 - 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the message is a credit that allows usage of one of the channels.
- 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the message indicates a completion of usage of one of the channels.
 - 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the probe device is connected to a switch in the broadband wireless system.
 - 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the probe device is connected to an upstream manager in the broadband wireless system.
 - 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the probe device is connected to a downstream manager in the broadband wireless system.
 - 9. The method of claim 1 wherein processing the message comprises determining a state of one of the channels.
- 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the state is polling.

- 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the state is dedicated.
- 12. The method of claim 9 wherein the state is idle.
- 5 13. The method of claim 9 further comprising determining a time in the state.
 - 14. The method of claim 1 wherein processing the message comprises monitoring a number of bytes transmitted.
- 15. The method of claim 1 wherein processing the message comprises monitoring a number of messages transmitted during a state of one of the channels.
 - 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a state of one of the channels.
 - 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a change in a state of one of the channels.
- 18. The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a number of bytes transmitted.
 - 19. The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a number of messages transmitted.
 - 20. The method of claim 1 wherein the channel information comprises a time in a state of one of the channels.
- 21. A software product for operating a probe device in a broadband wireless system, the software product comprising:

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- 22. The software product of claim 21 wherein the channels are upstream.
- 23. The software product of claim 21 wherein the channels are downstream.
- 24. The software product of claim 21 wherein the message is a credit that allows usage of one of the channels.
- 25. The software product of claim 21 wherein the message indicates a completion of usage of one of the channels.
- 26. The software product of claim 21 wherein the probe device is connected to a switch in the broadband wireless system.
- 27. The software product of claim 21 wherein the probe device is connected to an upstream manager in the broadband wireless system.
 - 28. The software product of claim 21 wherein the probe device is connected to a downstream manager in the broadband wireless system.
 - 29. The software product of claim 21 wherein the probe device software is operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to determine a state of one of the channels.
- 30. The software product of claim 29 wherein the state is polling.



- 31. The software product of claim 29 wherein the state is dedicated.
- 32. The software product of claim 29 wherein the state is idle.
- 33. The software product of claim 29 wherein the probe device software is operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to determine a time in the state.
- 34. The software product of claim 21 wherein the probe device software is operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to monitor a number of bytes transmitted.
 - 35. The software product of claim 21 wherein the probe device software is operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to monitor a number of messages transmitted during a state of one of the channels.
 - 36. The software product of claim 21 wherein the channel information comprises a state of one of the channels.
- 20 37. The software product of claim 21 wherein the channel information comprises a change in a state of one of the channels.
 - 38. The software product of claim 21 wherein the channel information comprises a number of bytes transmitted.
 - 39. The software product of claim 21 wherein the channel information comprises a number of messages transmitted.
- 40. The software product of claim 21 wherein the channel information comprises a time in a state of one of the channels.



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41. A probe device for operating a probe device in a broadband wireless system, the probe device comprising:

an interface configured to transfer a message; and

- a processor connected to the interface and configured to receive a message, process the message to determine channel information that indicates performance of channels in the broadband wireless system, and store the channel information in a memory in the probe device.
- 42. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channels are upstream.
- 43. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channels are downstream.
- 44. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the message is a credit that allows usage of one of the channels.
- 45. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the message indicates a completion of usage of one of the channels.
- 46. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the probe device is connected to a switch in the broadband wireless system.
- 47. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the probe device is connected to an upstream manager in the broadband wireless system.
- 48. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the probe device is connected to a downstream manager in the broadband wireless system.
 - 49. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the processor is configured to determine a state of one of the channels.
 - 50. The probe device of claim 49 wherein the state is polling.





- 51. The probe device of claim 49 wherein the state is dedicated.
- 52. The probe device of claim 49 wherein the state is idle.
- 53. The probe device of claim 49 wherein the processor is configured to determine a time in the state.
- 54. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the processor is configured to monitor a number of bytes transmitted.
 - 55. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the processor is configured to monitor a number of messages transmitted during a state of one of the channels.
- 15 56. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a state of one of the channels.
 - 57. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a change in a state of one of the channels.
 - 58. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a number of bytes transmitted.
- 59. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a number of messages transmitted.
 - 60. The probe device of claim 41 wherein the channel information comprises a time in a state of one of the channels.